

REMARKS

A final Office Action was mailed on December 10, 2001. Claims 1 - 3 are pending in the present application.

CHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE INFORMATION

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1 - 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,414,762 to Flisik et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,093 to Choe. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants disclose an information processing method and apparatus for managing one or more specification and description language (SDL) execution units. A potential problem anticipated in such an environment is an operating systems overhead associated with creating tasks for the SDL execution units.

According to Applicants' invention, for example, as claimed in claim 3, signals can be transferred between an SDL execution unit and an external environment description unit under a single task assigned by an operating system to the external environment description unit only, without assigning a separate task to the SDL

execution unit. In this manner, the overhead of the operating system is reduced. To realize the communication between the SDL execution unit and the external environment description unit, the apparatus according to claim 3 comprises an adapter, a pseudo internal signal generator, and a queue manager.

Flisik discloses a telephony controller for communicating with a PABX. The system of Flisik includes a telephony controller 20 including a command converter control 56 to generate PABX commands and a communication layer 30 that handles communications with data terminals coupled to the controller 20. In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention, the Flisik does not disclose a single operating system for operating the common layer 30 and the interface PABX 40. Therefore, in the case of Flisik, there is no motivation to reduce an overhead of the single operating system. This reference merely discloses a technique to communicate between a computer and the PABX without depending on a vendor specific PABX protocol.

In column 9, lines 62 – 67 of Flisik, communication from the socket processes SP to the monitor module 58 is mentioned. In the preferred embodiment, the socket communication method is identified as Unix socket communication.

According to this socket communication, the same task cannot carry out both the process between the communication layer and the PABX interface. In other words, it is necessary in the system of Flisik to assign operating system tasks to the communication layer and to the PABX interface separately. This assignment of tasks causes an increase in the overhead of the operating system. Flisik does not disclose or suggest that there is a problem associated with this approach, and accordingly does not disclose or a means for

solving this problem. In sharp contrast, the Applicants' claimed invention resolves this problem by providing the arrangement as claimed in claim 3.

Choe discloses a method and apparatus for interfacing a private exchange to ISDN. While Choe discloses an operating procedure incorporating SDL, it fails to otherwise disclose the above-discussed aspects of Applicants' claimed invention that are not taught or suggested by Flisik. Thus, even if the Flisik and Choe are combined, the present invention is not an obvious combination of Flisik and Choe.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 stands allowable over Flisik. Applicants repeat the above argument with respect to claim 1, which claims a method providing for signals to be transferred between an SDL execution unit and an external environment description unit under a single task assigned by an operating system to the external environment description unit only, without assigning a separate task to the SDL execution unit. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully further submit that claim 1 stands in condition for allowance. As claim 2, depends from allowable claim 1, Applicants also submit that claim 2 stands in condition for allowance.

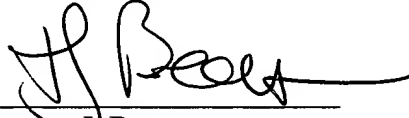
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 - 3, consisting of independent claims 1 and 3 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in

condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ Bean', written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Bean

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